

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated December 15, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this response, claims 1 and 18 are hereby amended; and claims 19 and 20 are hereby added. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-16 and 18-20 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 18 is objected to because claim 18 depends from claim 17, which has been cancelled. Claims 1-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,724,110 to Majima (hereinafter "Majima").

The applicants respectfully traverse the objection to claim 18 in light of the amendment to claim 18.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-16 and 18 and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 and 18 are allowable in that each of the claims recite a combination of elements, including, for example, "forming a UV sealant on either one of first and second substrates" and "forming a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates". Accordingly, in the claimed invention, the UV sealant and the liquid crystal layer separately are formed without mixing the UV sealant and liquid crystal material. However, the cited reference discloses that a mixture 15 of a photocurable resin and liquid crystal material are prepared by mixing and then the mixture 15 dropped at a central area of one of the base substrates 1 and 1', but does not disclose the above features of the present invention. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-16 and 18.

Furthermore, claims 19-20 are allowable at least by virtue of the fact that they depend from claim 1.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,



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